

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6529**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 255**

**DATE PREPARED:** Mar 29, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:** Mar 29, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Historic Bridges and St. Joseph County Historic Preservation Commission.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Bernadette Bartlett

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9586

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill provides an annual grant that counties may request based upon the number of historic bridges in the county and subject to the amount appropriated from the State General Fund for historic bridge maintenance grants and not to exceed \$100,000 per state fiscal year. The bill requires the county executive to use the grant money for the maintenance of historic bridges or covered bridges.

A building or structure that is declared by a historic preservation commission in St. Joseph County to be under interim protection may be placed under interim protection for not more than 30 days. In the case of a historic preservation commission with jurisdiction in South Bend, the commission must after June 30, 2001, include as a voting member the superintendent of the largest school corporation in the city. In St. Joseph County, a historic preservation commission may remove the historic classification of a building or structure owned by a political subdivision without the adoption of an ordinance by the legislative body of the unit if the commission determines that removal of the classification is in the best interest of the unit and the political subdivision.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Natural Resources Committee.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) This bill contains no appropriations. However, subject to appropriations made by the General Assembly and not to exceed \$100,000 per fiscal year, the bill authorizes an annual grant of \$1,250 to counties for each historic bridge that is located on the county's road system. Before September 1 of each year, the Auditor of State must distribute from the State General Fund to each county the total amount to which the county is entitled based on the number of bridges. This provision may increase administrative expenses for the Auditor; however, the Office of the Auditor would probably be able to absorb any additional expenses given its current budget.

In order to qualify for a grant, the bridge must be listed in the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures and/or the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, approximately 600 bridges may be eligible. If all 600 received funding, the total annual impact would equal \$750,000 (\$1,250 grant per bridge \* 600 bridges). However, the annual appropriation is limited to \$100,000. More bridges may be listed on the State and/or National Register in the future in order to be eligible for the grant.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) County executives may use the grant money only to maintain historic bridges or covered bridges. Counties may commingle and accumulate grant money received to preserve the historic bridges.

The impact of provisions specific to St. Joseph County will depend upon action taken by the local unit.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** Counties may be eligible to receive \$1,250 for each historic bridge.

**State Agencies Affected:** Auditor of State.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:** Marsh Davis, Director of Community Services, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, (317) 639-4534; and John Saldibar, Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, (317) 232-3492.